

Message Text

SECRET

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TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF JULY 3, 1975
(SALT TWO-658)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JULY 3, 1975.

QUOTE

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
JULY 3, 1975

MR. MINISTER:

I

I TAKE PLEASURE IN GREETING YOU, MR. MINISTER, AND THE
OTHER MEMBERS AND STAFFOF THE SOVIET DELEGATION AS WE RESUME
OUR NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION OF
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STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS TO COVER THE PERIOD UNTIL DECEMBER 31,

1985.

AT OUR LAST MEETING ON MAY 7 WE RECEIVED FROM THE DRAFTING GROUP A JOINT DRAFT TEXT FOR THE NEW AGREEMENT. IT IS, OF COURSE, AD REFERENDUM TO THE CHIEFS OF DELEGATION, AND IN TURN AD REFERENDUM TO OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE ARTICLES IN THAT TEXT CONTAIN LANGUAGE WHICH IS NOT AGREED, AND ACCORDINGLY MUCH WORK STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE ON THE DRAFT, THE DELEGATIONS DO NOW HAVE A COMMON DOCUMENT WHICH SHOULD SERVE TO ASSIST IN OUR FURTHER DELIBERATIONS.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS TO WHICH THE TWO DELEGATIONS MUST STILL DEVOTE ATTENTION. WE NEED TO SPECIFY WHICH WEAPONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATE LIMITATION OF 2400 STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. WE NEED TO ARRIVE AT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY DEFINITIONS OF THESE ARMS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AS MUCH PRECISION AS POSSIBLE TO THE NEW AGREEMENT AND THUS AVERT MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN THE FUTURE. WE NEED TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT CAN BE ADEQUATELY VERIFIED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS BY THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS. WE NEED TO ENSURE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ON HOW THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT OF 1972 ARE TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE NEW AGREEMENT. WE NEED TO EXPLORE WHAT ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE STRATEGIC STABILITY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND THEREBY REDUCE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR. WE NEED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER LIMITATIONS AND REDUCTIONS OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS SHOULD BE INITIATED IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE MOMENTUM WHICH BEGAN IN 1972 WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE ABM TREATY AND THE INTERIM AGREEMENT.

THESE AND OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS WILL REQUIRE THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY BOTH DELEGATIONS. IN OUR JOINT SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT, OUR TWO DELEGATIONS ARE CALLED UPON TO WORK IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE MANNER, AND TO FORGO NO OPPORTUNITY TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS.

IN THIS EFFORT WE ARE GUIDED BY THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED BY PRESIDENT FORD AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV AT VLADIVOSTOK IN NOVEMBER 1974 AND RECORDED IN THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 10,
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1974. THIS UNDERSTANDING SETS FORTH THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEW AGREEMENT THAT WE ARE CHARGED TO PREPARE. OUR TASK IS TO CONVERT THAT FRAMEWORK INTO A COMPLETE AND FORMAL ACCORD.

II

AS WE BEGIN THIS NEXT STAGE IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS, WE ALSO NEED TO ADDRESS PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS. BOTH DELEGATIONS, I AM

SURE, WISH TO ORGANIZE OUR JOINT WORK IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER POSSIBLE. FOR ITS PART, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IS SATISFIED WITH THE PROCEDURES WE HAVE WORKED OUT, BUT WE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS WHICH THE SOVIET DELEGATION MAY WISH TO OFFER.

THE DIMENSIONS OF THE TASK THAT FACES OUR TWO DELEGATIONS ARE INDEED GREAT. I PREFER TO REGARD THEM NOT SO MUCH AS A MEASURE OF THE DIFFICULTIES, BUT RATHER AS A MEASURE OF THE INTENSIVE WORK THAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF BOTH DELEGATIONS, IF WE ARE TO FULFILL SUCCESSFULLY OUR ASSIGNED MISSION. IT IS IN THAT SPIRIT, MR. MINISTER, THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO PROCEED.

UNQUOTEJOHNSON

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